

Message Text

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10

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-12 L-03 H-02 PPT-02

VO-03 RSR-01 /073 W

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R 271353 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1768

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: CASC, PINT, KE

SUBJECT: KENYA BANS JEHOVAH' S WITNESSES

1. ATTORNEY GENERAL, IN KENYA GAZETTE SUPPLEMENT ISSUED APRIL 26, ANNOUNCED BAN EFFECTIVE APRIL 18 OF ASSOCIATION OF JEHOVAH' S WITNESSES IN EAST AFRICA (AJWEA) AND SIX OTHER RELATED WATCHTOWER SOCIETIES, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (IBSA). BAN FOLLOWED VICE PRESIDENT MOI' S APRIL 14 WARNING IN KISUMU THAT ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST RELIGIOUS SECTS THAT DID NOT RESPECT KENYA' S LAWS. JEHOVAH' S WITNESSES ONLY SECT SINGLED OUT BY NAME BY MOI, WHO WAS CRITICAL OF MEMBERS REFUSAL TO SALUTE FLAG OR STAND FOR NATIONAL ANTHEM.

2. SECT AS ONLY 1200 MEMBERS IN KENYA, MOSTLY IN WESTERN PART OF COUNTRY. IN CONTRAST TO SITUATION IN MALAWI, EMBASSY UNAWARE OF ANY VIOLENCE DIRECTED AGAINST KENYAN WITNESSES, EITHER BEFORE BAN OR SO FAR AS CONSEQUENCE OF IT.

3. FOLLOWING BAN, EMBASSY CONTACTED JAMES L. HOCKETT, TREASURER OF BOTH AJWEA AND IBSA, WHO SAID TOTAL OF SEVEN U. S. CITIZENS CURRENTLY IN KENYA WITH IBSA. IBSA PROPERTIES CONSIST OF ONE RESIDENCE THAT ALSO SERVES AS AN OFFICE, ONE CHURCH BUILDING AND ONE VOLKSWAGEN MICROBUS. IBSA IS A BRITISH- REGISTERED

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SOCIETY, BUT ITS PARENT IS WATCHTOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY

OF PENNSYLVANIA, 124 COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, BROOKLYN, NY 11201.

4. UNCLEAR AT THIS POINT WHETHER GOK WILL TAKE ANY DIRECT ACTION
AGAINST AMERICAN ASPECTS OF JEHOVAH' S WITNESSES, BUT EMBASSY
DOES NOT EXPECT MAJOR PROBLEMS. HAVE ASKED HOCKETT TO KEEP US
ADVISED.

LINDSTROM

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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